

SOME SPECIMEN RECORDS FROM THE RUVUMA RIVER, FRONTIER OF
MOZAMBIQUE AND TANZANIA

Northern Mozambique is one of the ornithologically least known areas of Africa (Hall & Moreau 1970, Snow 1978) and one in which I have some interest (cf. Brooke 1969). Through the courtesy in December 1972 of Mr C. Jacot-Guillarmod, then Director of the Albany Museum, Grahamstown, South Africa, I was able to examine a small collection made by W.O. Harvey in the Southern Province of Tanzania between 1935 and 1937. Some of his specimens were taken on the Mikindani and Tunduru sectors of the Ruvuma River whose middle and lower reaches form the frontier between Tanzania and Mozambique and thus they can be regarded as as much Mozambican as Tanzanian records. These specimens are now listed.

Porphyrio porphyrio Purple Gallinule male, Mikindani sector, 15 October 1935.

P. alleni Allen's Gallinule male, Mikindani sector, 15 October 1935.

Actophilornis africanus Jacana male, Mikindani sector, 15 October 1935.

Actitis hypoleucos Common Sandpiper unsexed, Mikindani sector, 13 October 1935.

Glareola nuchalis White-collared Pratincole unsexed, Tunduru sector, no date. The lack of a date on this specimen is a pity since, at least to the south, the species is known to be a migrant (Benson & Irwin 1965). However, it may well have been taken in November, a probable month in terms of southern conditions, along with the next two species. The most southerly record in Britton (1980) is from the Selous Game Reserve, southern Tanzania.

Rynchops flavirostris African Skimmer male and female, Tunduru sector, November 1936.

Ceryle maxima Giant Kingfisher male, Tunduru sector, November 1936. This is a newly fledged bird with white axillaries and measures wing 192 mm, tail 114 mm, exposed culmen 72 mm, all below the minimum measurements for adults given in Reichenow (1903), viz. 195, 120 and 85 mm respectively.

Alcedo semitorquata Half-collared Kingfisher unsexed, Tunduru sector, no date, perhaps November 1936.

Halcyon albiventris Brown-hooded Kingfisher male, Mikindani sector, 18 October 1935.

Campethera cailliautii Little Spotted Woodpecker male, Mikindani sector, 13 October 1935. This is the only species mentioned in this contribution which is recorded by Frade (1953) for extreme northern Mozambique.

Cinnyricinclus leucogaster Violet-backed Starling male, Tunduru sector, no date, perhaps November 1936.

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